

Watershed Program

Watershed Program Objectives

The CALFED Watershed Program Element supports local communities to increase their watershed management capacity. This helps to achieve the mission and four overall objectives of CALFED.

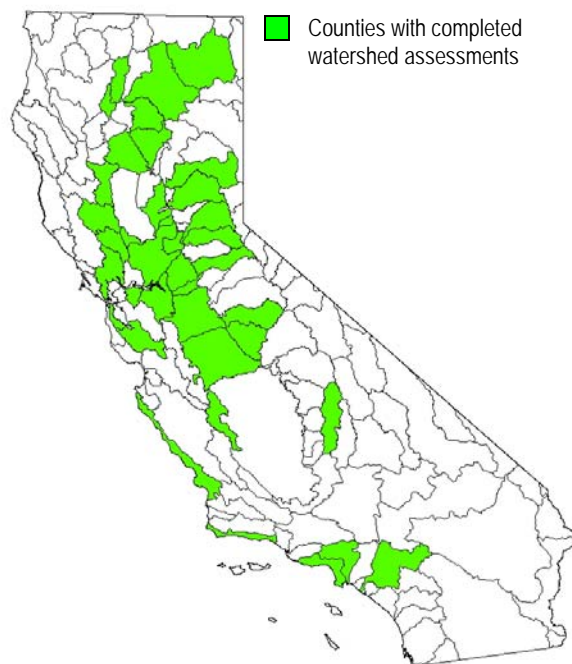
The Watershed Program conducts a range of activities in pursuit of these objectives. They include technical and financial assistance; promoting collaboration and integration; assisting with monitoring and assessment; and illustrating the relationships between watershed processes and the CALFED objectives.

Watershed Assessment Status: The Watershed Program has developed a set of potential measures and accompanying indicators of performance. From among those, a selected few indicators will be used to track performance. As projects and processes develop with support from Program activities, additional indicators may be necessary.

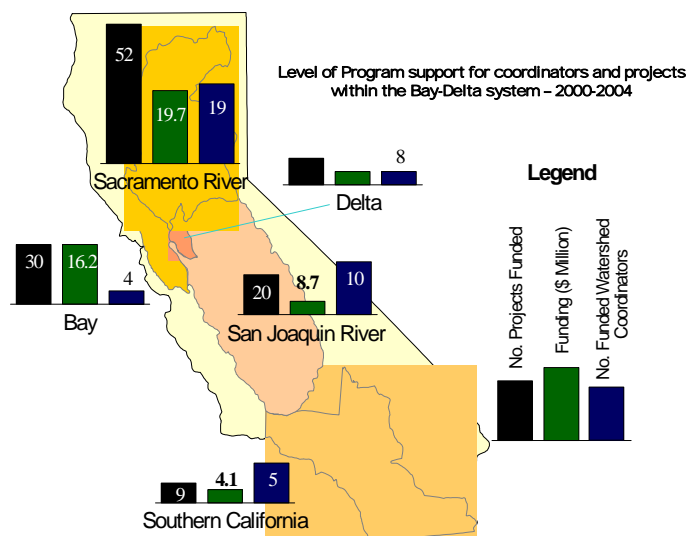
The graph at right shows the area of the Bay-Delta system with watershed assessments completed or underway. The assessments allow local communities and CALFED to understand existing conditions in the system. That understanding enables more integrative and effective planning to support management and restoration. Over time, the activities of the Watershed Program will complete assessments, support subsequent planning and management, and support monitoring to enable adaptive management of the system's watersheds.

Number of Watershed Coordinators: Watershed Coordinators serve as the communication hub for local watershed management initiatives. They assist with partnership development, information transfer, organization, public outreach and education. The Watershed Coordinators contribute to the goals of the CALFED program by enhancing local partnerships between CALFED and the watershed communities they serve. The extent of support for local watershed coordinators through partnership with the Department of Conservation illustrates a constructive relationship among local communities, CALFED and a cooperating state agency.

The activities of Watershed Coordinators will enable more robust collaborative restoration and water management projects in local watersheds. These projects will directly contribute to ecological restoration, water supply reliability, water quality and levee stability objectives of CALFED.



Watershed assessments provide baseline snapshots of conditions related to CALFED objectives



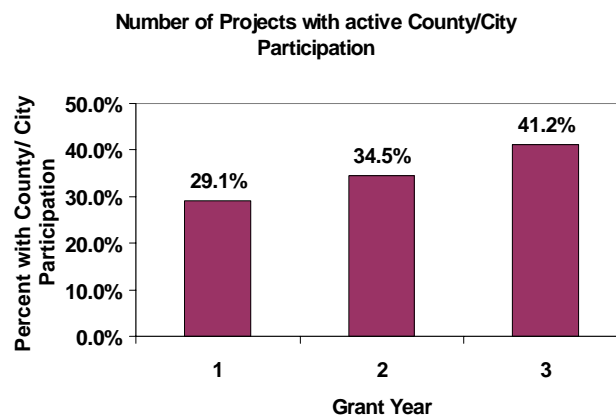
The number of Watershed Coordinators indicates the level of commitment from the Watershed Program to supporting local implementation of the CALFED Program.

Local Government Involvement: Cities and counties in California are land use decision making entities. Their active involvement in watershed management is critical to the success of CALFED implementation. Resource Conservation Districts, Water Districts, and other local government agencies are also very important partners in CALFED implementation.

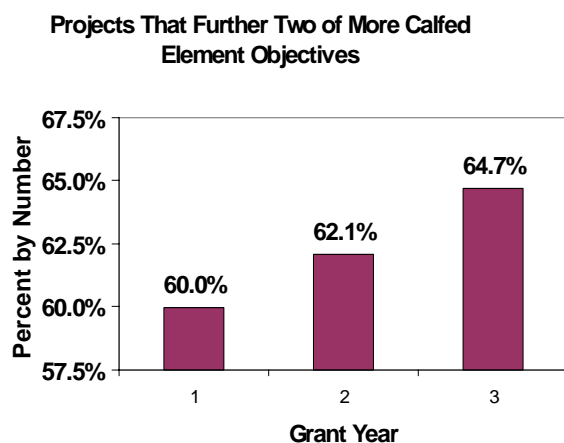
The graph at right shows that local involvement by Cities and Counties has increased over the first three years of implementation. The increase reflects the growing emphasis of the Watershed Program on developing partnerships with local government to manage the watersheds of the Bay-Delta system to achieve the mission of CALFED.

The Watershed Program supports multiple CALFED objectives. An important indicator of Program performance is the number of projects that support two or more CALFED program objectives. The graph on the right shows that the number of projects supporting multiple objectives continues to increase.

As Watershed Program activities progress, we expect this trend to continue.



The level of involvement by cities and counties in CALFED Watershed activities continues to increase. This indicates the strengthening partnerships between CALFED and local government land use and natural resource management activities.






Watershed projects support multiple CALFED objectives. The number of Watershed projects that support multiple CALFED objectives indicates growing integration of the diverse activities necessary for balanced implementation of the CALFED Program

Next Steps: Work on watershed performance indicators and performance measures will continue over the next several years. Through work with the CALFED science program, implementing agencies and other stakeholders, staff will research and refine the following pending indicators:

- Sustainability of local watershed management: a metric to gauge the level of sustainability and self reliance for local watershed management that furthers the mission of CALFED.
- Reliability of local water supplies: a metric that marks changes in the source, quantity and quality of local water supplies relative to their use for agriculture, human use and consumption, and the environment.
- Reference watershed hydrographs: these will clarify changes to the hydrologic regime that have resulted from watershed management activities, natural processes, and external factors such as climate change. These will serve as important benchmarks of watershed management effectiveness in the Bay-Delta watershed.

Summary of Accomplishments: Notable accomplishments of the Watershed Program over the last four years include:

- Grant-program funding for 118 projects: These projects address a variety of issues including water quality, flood management, and ecosystem restoration at both the local and the watershed scale. Some of these projects have been completed or are nearing completion.
- Comprehensive review of the first 54 projects: Completed this year, the review provides in-depth description of program results and can be found at www.calwater.ca.gov/Programs/Watershed/WatershedGrantsCatalogue.shtml
- Support for more than 49 watershed coordinators: Activities throughout the State have helped build local capacity
- Specialized Watershed Management Partnership Training to 78 local leaders: intensive training provided through two, 2-week residence seminars.
- Watershed assessments: Existing conditions reports to support local management planning and management, and to provide a baseline from which to measure impacts of management decisions and actions.
- Vegetation mapping: A regional analysis of vegetation types and distribution to support local and regional assessment and management activities.
- Strong stakeholder involvement: A committed and active group of stakeholders, including agencies, who provide regular and substantial guidance for Program actions.

Watershed Program Budget Summary, in Millions \$					
Element Task	Appropriations for FY 00-04			Task Group	FY 00-04 Subtotals
	CALFED	Local	Subtotal		
Information Development and Management	\$ 1.65		\$ 1.65	Science, Management, & Oversight/Coordination	5.95
Program Management and Oversight	\$ 4.29		\$ 4.29		
Education and Outreach to Local Communities	\$ 0.36		\$ 0.36	Watershed	102.40
Financial Assistance to Local Programs	\$ 72.70	\$ 23.89	\$ 96.58		
Technical Assistance to Local Programs	\$ 5.46		\$ 5.46		
Subtotal - Watershed			\$108.35		
<div>  Contributes to water supply reliability </div> <div>  Contributes to ecosystem </div> <div>  Contributes to water quality </div>					